



The Harness Devotional

July 6 - 11

Verses: 1 Samuel 25:3–39; 27:3; 1 Chronicles 3:1

1 Samuel 27:3 - David and his men settled in Gath with Achish. Each man had his family with him, and David had his two wives: Ahinoam of Jezreel and Abigail of Carmel, the widow of Nabal. (NIV)

1 Chronicles 3:1 - These were the sons of David born to him in Hebron: The firstborn was Amnon the son of Ahinoam of Jezreel; the second, Daniel the son of Abigail of Carmel (NIV).

Also read: 1 Samuel 25:3–39

Worship Song for the Week

["Battle Belongs" by Phil Wickham](#)

This song perfectly captures Abigail's strategy: when we face "Nabals" and "Davids" in conflict, we don't have to fight with human weapons; we fight on our knees and let the battle belong to the Lord.

Monday - Day 1: The Contrast of Character

Focus: "His name was Nabal, and his wife's name was Abigail. She was an intelligent and beautiful woman, but her husband was surly and mean in his dealings." (1 Sam 25:3) Abigail lived in a difficult "unequally yoked" situation. Her beauty wasn't just physical; it was an inner strength that allowed her to remain "intelligent" and gracious even while living with a "fool."

Opening Prayer: Lord, help me to maintain my character regardless of the environment I am in. Grant me the

grace to be "intelligent" in my responses when I am surrounded by "surly" situations.

Reflection: Am I allowing the difficult people in my life to dictate my mood and character, or am I letting God's Spirit define who I am?

Tuesday - Day 2: Discerning the Crisis

Focus: "One of the servants told Abigail... 'Now think it over and see what you can do, because disaster is hanging over our master and his whole household.'" (1 Sam 25:14, 17) Abigail didn't panic; she listened. She was a woman whom servants felt safe talking to. Her reputation for wisdom made her the "go-to" person when everything was falling apart.

Opening Prayer: Father, give me ears to hear the truth. Help me to be a person of peace and wisdom that others can turn to when a crisis arises.

Reflection: Do I have a "listening heart"? Am I approachable enough for others to bring me the hard truths I need to hear?

Wednesday - Day 3: The Initiative of Peace

Focus: "Abigail acted quickly. She took two hundred loaves of bread... and loaded them on donkeys. Then she told her servants, 'Go on ahead; I'll follow you.'" (1 Sam 25:18-19) Abigail didn't wait for permission to do what was right. She took proactive steps to satisfy a debt and de-escalate a war. She understood that "blessed are the peacemakers."

Opening Prayer: Lord, show me where I can "act quickly" to bring peace. Give me the initiative to mend

fences and provide for needs before a conflict turns into a disaster.

Reflection: Is there a "loaves of bread" gesture I can make today to soften a tense relationship or resolve a misunderstanding?

Thursday - Day 4: Speaking Life to a Leader

Focus: "Please forgive your servant's presumption... The Lord your God will certainly make a lasting dynasty for my lord, because you fight the Lord's battles." (1 Sam 25:28) Abigail spoke to David's future identity rather than his current anger. She reminded him of who he was meant to be, preventing him from making a mistake that would haunt his kingship.

Opening Prayer: Holy Spirit, put the right words in my mouth. Help me to speak life and destiny into the people around me, especially when they are tempted to act out of character.

Reflection: Who in my life needs to be reminded of their "God-given identity" today? How can I encourage them to stay on God's path?

Friday - Day 5: Leaving Vengeance to God

Focus: "When David heard that Nabal was dead, he said, 'Praise be to the Lord, who has upheld my cause against Nabal... and has kept his servant from doing wrong.'" (1 Sam 25:39). Abigail's wisdom saved David from "bloodguilt." Because she intervened, David didn't have to take matters into his own hands. God dealt with Nabal in His own way and His own time.

Opening Prayer: Lord, I release my "right" to get even. I trust You to be my Advocate and my Judge. Help me to wait on Your justice rather than seeking my own.

Reflection: Is there a situation where I am tempted to "take revenge"? Can I trust God enough to step back and let Him handle the "Nabals" in my life?

Saturday - Day 6: A New Chapter of Legacy

Focus: "David sent word to Abigail, asking her to become his wife... she became his wife." (1 Sam 25:39, 1 Chron 3:1) Abigail's story shifted from a house of folly to a house of destiny. She became the mother of Chileab (Daniel), a son in the royal line. Her faithfulness in a hard marriage prepared her for a role in the kingdom.

Opening Prayer: Heavenly Father, thank You for seeing my faithfulness in the "hard places." I trust that You are using my current trials to prepare me for the "kingdom roles" You have for me.

Reflection: How is my current "difficult season" potentially training me for a future responsibility I cannot yet see?